

REMARKS

Summary of Amendments

Claims 1-5 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-5 have been amended in response to the objection. Claim 2 has been amended in response to rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled.

Election/Restriction

Applicant's election of species in its reply filed October 1, 2004 was made without traverse. Because allowable subject matter has been indicated, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion the non-elected claims, i.e., claims 6 and 7, have been canceled.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 3-5 was objected to because of the inclusion of method of forming language, i.e., "deformation preventing portion formed on the bent portion by cutting off a part of a pair of oblique lines defining the V-shaped notches toward the circular holes so as to expand the gaps of the V-shaped notches and the circular holes for preventing the bent portions from deforming by stress of bending process", on the ground that this type of language is not given patentable weight in a structural claimed invention.

The applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's suggested change to the claim language, and have amended the phrase as "deformation preventing portions being a part of the bent portions and including cutting-off parts of a pair of oblique portions defining the V-shaped notches toward the circular holes so as to expand the gap of the V-shaped notches and the circular holes for preventing the bent portions from deforming by stress".

Hence, amended claims 1, 3-5 no longer include the method of forming languages, and thus overcome the objection.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Applicants' Admitted Prior Art Figs 10-12 and prior art description (AAPA) in the specification. The Examiner stated that these figures disclose a stator core comprising strip-shaped stator cores (100) including plurality of teeth portions(111), bent portions(112) being provided with V-shaped notches (116) and interposing between each of the teeth portion, and segment core elements having plural independent segment cores.

Applicants acknowledge that AAPA Figs 10-12 disclose a stator core comprising strip shaped stator cores (100) including a plurality of teeth portions (111), bent portions (112) being provided with V-shaped notches (116) and interposing between each of the teeth portion.

However, in the present invention, as recited in claim 2, the stator core further comprises a plurality of independent segment cores, which are laminated together with the strip-shaped segment cores in the thickness direction. The feature is disclosed in Fig. 9 and in the related descriptions in the specification. In contrast, AAPA Figs 10-12 neither disclose independent segment cores nor disclose that they are laminated together with strip-shaped segment cores in the thickness direction. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify those features.

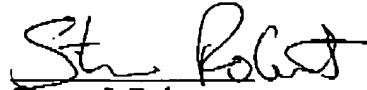
In addition, the Examiner stated that no patentable weight is given to the method of forming language found in original claim 2, i.e., the recitation "segment core element having plural independent segment cores formed by cutting off each of teeth portions". Thus, this has been amended to "a plurality of independent segment cores, each segment core having a teeth portion." Applicants believe that the method of forming language has been removed from the phrase by this amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claim 1, 4 and 5 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to include the suggested claim language provided by the Examiner, and that claim 3 was also indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form. Nevertheless, based on the amendments to the claims herein, and for the reasons set forth in the foregoing, it is earnestly submitted that all of the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the applicants courteously urge that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 which may become due in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 19-2042.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 2/1/2005